

REMARKS

Claims 26, 27, 29, and 62-77 were pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 26, 27, 29, 62-67, and 73 have been cancelled, and claim 68 has been amended. These claim cancellations and amendment have been made to comply with the requirements set forth in the pending Office Action and to thereby place the application in condition for allowance.

In particular, in the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 69-72 and 74-77 are allowable. These claims have not been amended and remain in the application. The Examiner also stated that claim 68 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 68 has been amended, as requested, to incorporate the contents of former claim 26. In the process, a clerical error in line 4 of claim 26 was corrected – replacing a redundant occurrence of the term “and with” with the word “the”. All of the other claims have been cancelled.

Accordingly, this Amendment complies with the Office Action and places the claims in condition for allowance. Consideration and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

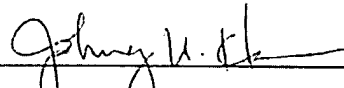
Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the Amendment and to withdraw the outstanding rejections and pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the appropriate fee and/or petition is not filed herewith and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 50-3973 referencing Attorney Docket No. USGINZ02111. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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